Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing patient flow through care units of a hospital using a computer having a microprocessor comprising:

collecting data regarding hospital statistics,

assigning an hourly cost to each care unit for each patient,

building a model based upon the collected data and hourly cost, ~~and~~

~~using the model to simulate~~simulating the flow of patients through the hospital using the model, wherein the simulating step utilizes an average of collected data; and

using the model and the results of the simulating step to recommend hospital resource changes.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein each care unit is a hospital department.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising using the model to estimate a cost savings that results from a purchase of patient monitoring equipment.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising identifying a bottleneck in the flow of patients through the hospital.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein collecting data further comprises locating patients through a patient locating system.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein collecting data is done in real-time.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein collecting real-time data comprises using a patient locating system.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein collecting real-time data comprises using an equipment locating system.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein collecting real-time data comprises using an Admission Discharge Transmission System.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein collecting real-time data comprises using a point of care system.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising predicting a bottleneck in the flow of patients through the hospital through the use of the model.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the collected data comprises data regarding average patient length of stay in a care unit.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining alternative patient flow routes based upon optimizing efficiency of the hospital.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining resource utilization based upon the model.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer system for modeling patient flow through care units of a hospital comprising:

a collection module configured to accept data regarding hospital statistics;

an assignment module configured to assign an hourly cost to each unit for each patient;

a model module configured to build a model of the flow of patients through the hospital; ~~and~~

a simulation module configured to simulate the flow of patients through the hospital, wherein the simulation module utilizes an average of the data; and

a resource module configured to determine a resource utilization of the hospital by utilizing the model and the output of the simulation module.

17. (Original) The system of Claim 16, further comprising an estimation module configured to estimate a cost savings that would result from a purchase of patient monitoring equipment.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 16, further comprising a prediction module configured to predict a bottleneck in the flow of patients.

19. (Original) The system of Claim 16, further comprising an identification module configured to identify a bottleneck in the flow of patients.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) The system of Claim 16, wherein the collection module is further configured to collect real-time hospital statistics.

22. (Original) The system of Claim 16, wherein the care units include at least the following hospital departments: Admitting, Intensive Care Unit, Surgery and Discharge.